

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-21 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1 and 4 have been amended; and claims 18-21 have been added. No new matter has been added.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 1 – 8, 9 and 13

In Section 1 of the Office Action, claims 1 – 8, 9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Florin et al. (U.S. Patent No 5,583,560; hereinafter referred to as “Florin”) in view of McGee *et al.* (U.S. Patent No 6,496,228; hereinafter referred to as “McGee”). Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to address the rejection.

In the Background section of the Specification, it was indicated, “[c]onventionally, in a set-top box and the like . . . , contents . . . are displayed, for example, on a multi-screen in order that a desired channel can be selected easily from a large number of channels . . . it is also considered that a desired program is watched and heard by time shift. If a user watches and hears the program thus recorded, there may be a case that the user desires to watch and hear only a specific scene. In this case, it is considered that the scene desired by the user can be selectively provided if a head of each scene is displayed as a still image and a corresponding scene is reproduced by selection made by the user. Accordingly, the operability can be improved. However, if those still images are displayed and disposed simply, the before-after relationship of the still images cannot be grasped easily, so the operability is deteriorated inversely.”

Background of the Specification, page 1, line 15 through page 2, line 9.

To address the above-described shortcomings of the conventional information providing apparatuses and methods, embodiments of the present invention provides “a video signal processing apparatus and a video signal processing method by which a large number of images, which are consecutive in time series can be displayed such that a before-after relationship between the images can be easily understood.” *Specification, page 2, lines 13-16.*

For example, the structure of information providing apparatus claim 1, as amended herein, includes:

“means for obtaining first index information from a first information source of the plurality of information sources, wherein the first index information includes representative information indicating scene changes in the information data provided through the first information source;

means for obtaining second index information from a second information source of the plurality of information sources;

means for displaying a categorized menu on the screen based on the obtained first and second index information; and

means for obtaining necessary information from the first or second information source, in response to selection operation on the menu screen, and for displaying information based on the necessary information,

means for recording a history of programs watched and heard by a user, and controlling the display of information such that a favorite channel of the user is displayed to be selectable priorly in accordance with the history,

wherein the menu screen is arranged to display the information in a plurality of dimensions and levels such that a substantial portion of the necessary information can be seen and navigated on a minimum number of screens to enable relatively easy programming decisions and selections, and

wherein the representative information indicating scene changes is captured and output to the first information source, and

wherein the representative information is recorded onto the first
information source prior to obtaining the first index information,
and

(emphasis added)

Therefore, the structure of claim 1, as presented herein, includes means for obtaining first index information from a first information source of the plurality of information sources, and means for recording a history of programs watched and heard by a user, and controlling the display of information such that a favorite channel of the user is displayed to be selectable priorly in accordance with the history. *Specification, page 13, ll. 2-5.* That is, the information providing apparatus includes recording a history of programs, and the display of information is controlled such that a user's favorite channel is displayed with priority in the list of channel choices so as to be easily selectable.

It is indicated that Florin fails to disclose providing means "wherein the first index information indicating scene changes in the information data provided through the first information source, wherein the representative information indicating scene changes is captured and output to the first information source for recordal, and wherein the representative information is recorded at the first information source prior to obtaining the first index information." *Office Action, page 4.* It is indicated that McGee teaches this limitation. (May 19, 2005 Office Action, page 4.) Even if McGee were to disclose or teach capturing outputting the representative information to the first information source for recordal prior to obtaining the first index information, both Florin and McGee, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest means for recording a history of programs watched and heard by a user, and controlling the display of information such that a favorite channel of the user is displayed to be selectable

priorly in accordance with the history, as claimed. Thus, Florin and McGee, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1.

Based on the foregoing discussion, claim 1 should be allowable over Florin and McGee. Since independent claim 4 closely parallels, and recites substantially similar limitations as recited in, independent claim 1, claim 4 should also be allowable over Florin and McGee. Since claims 2-3, 5-8, 9 and 13 depend from one of claims 1 and 4, claims 2-3, 5-8, 9 and 13 should also be allowable over Florin and McGee.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-8, 9, and 13 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§ 103(a) Rejection of Claims 10 – 12, 14, and 15 – 17

In Section 2 of the Office Action, claims 10 – 12, 14, and 15 – 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Florin et al. (U.S. Patent No 5,583,560; hereinafter referred to as "Florin") in view of McGee and further in view of Hatori et al. (U.S. Publication No. 5,977,974; hereinafter referred to as "Hatori").

Claims 10-12, 14, and 15-17 depend from one of claims 1 and 4. It was indicated that "Hatori discloses displaying the plurality of still images in a temporal sequence so that relationships among the plurality of still images can be viewed in time series." Even if this were true, Florin and McGee do not render obvious claim 1 or 4, as discussed above. Therefore, even if one were to combine Hatori with Florin and McGee, the combination would not include all the limitations of claims 1 and 4, and through dependence, claims 10-12, 14, and 15-17. Thus,

Florin, McGee and Hatori, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 10-12, 14 and 15-17.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 10-12, 14, and 15-17 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Newly-added Claims 18-21

Claims 18-21 are non-means plus function claim equivalents of claims 9-12. Therefore, claims 18-21 parallel claims 9-12 and recite substantially similar limitations.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 1-21 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

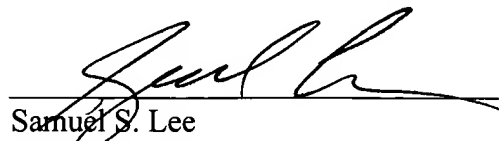
PATENT
Serial No. 09/601,126
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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